

Kenya - A Mammal Tour

Naturetrek Tour Report

2 - 11 June 2006



Lion by Paul Stanbury

Report compiled by tour participant Martin J Palmer



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Day 1

Friday 2nd June

Diana and I left home in Kempston, Bedfordshire on Friday, 2nd June for the drive to Heathrow, Terminal 4 and arrived in good time for our scheduled 10.15 BA flight to Nairobi. However, we didn't take off until 11.45 but it was a good flight and we landed in Nairobi just under eight hours later at 9.30pm local time.

Our Naturetrek leader/driver, Davis was there to greet us with his colleagues Sammy and Elly. We had a short wait as even though eleven of us had got through immigration and customs quickly, two of our party were held up a while. I took the opportunity to exchange some currency.

We loaded our luggage onto the three spacious "vans" we were to travel in. Each had a lifting roof panel that would allow us to stand up and more easily see and film the game and birdlife we were all eagerly anticipating. We were with Elly on our journey from the airport and he gave us an explanation of the buildings and features of the city that we passed by. We soon arrived at the Hotel Boulevard and had checked in by 11.15pm. Davis, Sammy and Elly would collect us after breakfast in the morning.

Day 2

Saturday 3rd June

Our room was at the side of the hotel facing tree-lined grounds and a small but fast stream beyond. We were awoken as dawn broke by a cacophony of sound. We quickly realised this to be the raucous calls of many Hadada Ibis leaving their nearby roosts. A stroll round the grounds before breakfast brought us good views of Pied Crows, Yellow-billed Kites, Olive Thrushes, Common Bulbuls, Baglafecht Weaver, Variable Sunbird, Speckled Mousebird and two distant Little Swifts.

This being my tenth trip to Africa, and second to Kenya, I was particularly pleased to see three new species before breakfast: Streaky Seed-eater, White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher and Rufous Sparrow.

Davis and the thirteen of us on the trip sat outside the pleasant dining area of the hotel after breakfast and he set out the itinerary for the tour. We would head first for Elsamere on the shores of Lake Naivasha, stopping off briefly on the way for views of the Rift Valley and of Longanot, an old volcano. We would have lunch at Elsamere and could explore the grounds in the afternoon and take a boat-trip on the lake if we wanted to. Staying there overnight, we would make the long journey to the Masai Mara the next day. A pair of African Paradise Flycatchers flew past as we all chatted.

We left the hotel at 10.05 and travelled with Elly out of Nairobi. En route to Lake Naivasha, we added Speckled Pigeon, Common Fiscal Shrike, White-faced Whistling Duck, Blacksmith Plover, Augur Buzzard, Cape Rook, Northern Anteater Chat, Cattle Egret, Superb Starling and Crowned Plover to our list. Grey-backed Fiscal was another new species for me and, on nearing our destination we saw pairs of African Fish Eagle and Marabou Stork overhead.

We arrived at Elsamere just after 12.30 and were soon allocated to our spacious bungalow style apartment rooms with en suite facilities dotted about the very pleasant grounds overlooking Lake Naivasha. Our first mammals had been a herd of Water Buck that we had passed on our journey. Now, here in the grounds, we had a party of four or more wonderful Guereza Black and White Colobus monkeys calling loudly and moving easily through the trees, their long tails trailing behind.

There was plenty of birdlife to enjoy too. A Lilac-breasted Roller had thrilled us on arrival, and during and after our open-air buffet lunch, we saw some Fischer's Lovebirds, a pair of Grey Woodpeckers, Black-backed Puffback, Purple Grenadiers, a female African Grey Hornbill, Red-eyed Doves, 3 Yellow-billed Ducks and 3 African Hoopoes. A pair of Bearded Woodpeckers were seen well and other species included Common Drongo, Pied Kingfisher, Tawny-flanked Prinia, Amethyst Sunbird, Long-tailed Cormorant, Grey-headed Gull and a briefly seen Black-headed Oriole.

After lunch, eight of us went on a boat-trip around the shoreline of this section of Lake Naivasha. The boatman entertained us royally by throwing out pieces of fish that the local African Fish Eagles swooped down to take with ease.

New birds for the trip were Hamerkop, 3 Little Bitterns, 2 Lesser Swamp Warblers, Whiskered Terns, White-breasted Cormorants, Squacco Heron, 2 Purple Herons and 2 Goliath Herons all seen very well. There were 3 Black Crakes, lots of African Sand Martins, an African Rock Martin, 2 Malachite Kingfishers, a distant Greenshank and some Little Egrets as well.

We had close views of an African Rock Python asleep in the reeds spotted by our able boat-man, and then close encounters with at least 40 Hippos. Groups of 34 Impala and 25 Great White Pelicans were enjoyed and a Gull-billed Tern, a few Egyptian Geese and 4 Sacred Ibis were also seen.

Back at Elsamere, a further nine species were added to our species list before dusk - these were White-browed Robin-chat, Nubian Woodpecker, Spectacled Weaver, Yellow White-eye, a noisy family of Arrow-marked

Babblers, Red-winged Starling, some White-rumped Swifts and two more new species for me – a superb Grey-capped Warbler and a trio of Golden-winged Sunbirds. We slept soundly after an enjoyable evening meal. The bird list was already on 69 and though mammal numbers were as yet low, the views of the Colobus monkeys and the Hippo's had been fantastic.

Day 3

Sunday 4th June

We were up early for breakfast, enjoying the Colobus again and further views of some of yesterday's great birds before our guides arrived to collect us. We travelled with Sammy today and left at 7.45am to embark on a tedious, difficult and bumpy ride along mostly unmade roads toward the Masai Mara. A new highway was being built but the old one, running parallel, had been built by Italian prisoners during the Second World War and the "smoother" ride was nowadays over the rutted mud alongside!

We made a couple of "loo stops" along the way, the second just outside a major town of the area, Narok. Our first addition to the trip list was Laughing Dove though Northern Anteater Chats, Cattle Egrets and Speckled Pigeons were the commonest drive-past birds.

At the first stop, we added Red-rumped Swallow, Wire-tailed Swallow, House Sparrow, African Pied Wagtail and a male and two female Schalow's (formerly Abyssinian Black) Wheatears. The next section toward Narok brought us our first Thompson's Gazelles and some saw a few Olive Baboons at the roadside also a tiny antelope, Kirk's Dik-dik. Others saw a few Burchell's Plains Zebra and an Ostrich. More new birds for the trip included Scarlet-chested Sunbird and a probable Yellow Bishop.

Between Narok and the Masai Mara Game Reserve we encountered a few Yellow-throated Longclaws and Rufous-naped Larks. Herds of Thompson's Gazelles, Impala, and Common Eland were seen as we approached Kicheche Camp which was to be our base for the remainder of the holiday. A dozen Masai (also known as Kenyan) Giraffe were seen, also a Topi and some Grant's Gazelles. I caught up on Common Ostrich and we saw 2 then an amazing flock of 62 Grey Crowned Cranes before at last arriving at Kicheche Camp for a late lunch just after 2.00pm.

We were greeted by the camp managers, Eric and Annie, plus some of the Masai who worked about the camp. Our accommodation was a large, very well equipped tent per couple with a full en suite at the rear. Each tent was set amongst the woodland a short walk from the next so each had total privacy and most had wonderful views out over the savannah.

During and after lunch, our hosts explained that there was no fence about the camp and the animals could come and go as they pleased. Therefore, we would be conducted about the camp after dark by a Masai "just in case"! A bowl and jug of hot water plus tea and/or coffee as we pleased would be brought to our tent every morning in plenty of time for our breakfast and morning game drive departure. In the evening, upon completion of our afternoon drive, we would be welcomed back by the staff with a hot towel wipe and a cold drink.

We left on our first game drive just before 4.30pm. We travelled with Davis whose quietly considered voice and seemingly never ending supply of local tales and identification tips kept us enthralled throughout the week.

Two Helmeted Guineafowl were the first addition to the trip list but it was the amazing views of a female Cheetah with her two very young kittens that enchanted us. The kittens were so tiny and their quiet mews seemed to emphasise just how vulnerable they were. The mother once jumped up on to the bonnet of another vehicle to get a better view over the tall grasses, unconcerned by the incredulous visitors sitting aboard, but soon returned to attend to her offspring.

Thompson's Gazelles were numerous and we saw 16 Topi – a new antelope for me – Grant's Gazelles, 11 Masai Giraffe, another Kirk's Dik-dik, 2 Gnu (or Blue Wildebeeste to give them their official name), and then 2 lazing male Lions. A Black-bellied Bustard, a pair of Quail Finches and a Harlequin Quail were the only ones of each species we were to see on the trip.

Later we watched 4 Lionesses stealthily make their way to stalk a line of Burchell's Plains Zebra. It was interesting to watch how, one at a time, they would move a few metres as they fanned out toward the Zebra, often using one of the vehicles as their cover. However, all too soon, dusk was falling and we didn't get back to Kicheche Camp until about 7.10pm for a hasty wash and change of clothes for dinner.

The quaint but effective "rope and bucket" shower supplied with hot water every evening proved ample for two in turn to shower and to wash our hair, as long as you didn't linger! We then hailed our local Masai, equipped with spear and torch to guide us to a camp fire made near the centre of the camp for a welcome beer before settling about the trestle tables set out for us for the excellent food prepared. After our meal – we were all tired tonight after our exhausting journeys - one of the Masai guided us back to our individual tents by torchlight. The beds were comfortable and we slept well nearly every night, save for the odd "jungle noise" awakening us occasionally!

Day 4

Monday 5th June

We set out early this morning, after the hot water and drinks and biscuits served to us. We would be stopping out in the bush for a breakfast that had been prepared and stowed away in our vans. As yesterday, Davis, Sammy and Elly soon set off in similar but widespread direction so as each group could enjoy the wildlife and the landscape as independently as possible.

Amongst the bird species seen this morning were Red-capped Lark, Grassland Pipit, Crowned Plover, Rufous-naped Lark, Yellow-throated Longclaw, Common Ostrich, Pin-tailed Wydah, Common Bulbul, Common Fiscal, Yellow-fronted Canary and African Sand Martin. Mammals included Thompson's and Grant's Gazelles, Topi, Gnu, Impala, Giraffes and Zebra. All of these species were regularly seen on our game drives during the next few days.

Two presumed Yellow-throated Sandgrouse flew over then a line of 2 adult Lionesses and 12 variously aged cubs gave us wonderful views. By careful positioning of the vans, Davis, Sammy and Elly gave us repeated close views without causing any distress or nuisance to the Lions. Three unidentified Storks flew distantly away and a couple of Warthog trotted past, their tails flailing as always, as we made our way to a safe area by the bank of the Mara River to have a late breakfast. Some of the others had seen Spotted Hyena, Black-backed Jackal and a Bataleur during the morning.

A big herd of Hippopotamuses were in the river including some quite young ones. The males would protect their section of the river from other intruding males whilst also keeping an eye on their harem of females. Five Red-billed Oxpeckers hitched a ride on the backs of the Hippo's for a short while.

Other birds at the riverside were 2 Hamerkop, a Red-rumped Swallow, 2 Lesser-striped Swallows, a party of ten Red-collared Widowbirds, 2 African Fish Eagles, 3 Horus Swifts, 2 Yellow Bishops, an African Pied Wagtail, a Pied Kingfisher, a Black-crowned Tchagra and a Three-banded Plover.

I identified a barbet as an Usembiro Barbet, recently split by various authorities from D'Arnaud's Barbet which I had seen in coastal Kenya a few years ago and was my tenth new species on this trip. A Swahili Sparrow – also recently split, this one from Grey-headed Sparrow, was also a tick. We moved on at 11.15 and 4 Lilac-breasted Rollers, a Bataleur and some vultures were seen along the return drive to our camp.

After lunch, we had time to relax or explore the short paths about the camp – it was a great shame that there was not a better loop of paths to explore as most led only to other tents and one didn't want to impinge on others privacy. Nonetheless, I added Lappet-faced Vulture, Grey-backed Cameroptera and Slate-coloured Boubou to the bird-list which had now just passed 100 species. A couple of cheeky Vervet Monkeys were seen about the camp and some of the others had seen a Puff Adder!

A Bataleur was seen from the camp and then I caught sight of a massive raptor that could only be a Marshall Eagle. We were just about to leave on our 4.30 afternoon gamedrive and fortunately we quickly relocated this huge eagle so all could get good views. A Lizard Buzzard flew from its perch and our next good species was a long-legged Secretarybird striding across the savannah.

Mammals were similar to those seen this morning but 5 Black-backed Jackals were seen and 9 adult and 2 juvenile Coke's Harebeeste before we eventually tracked down our first Elephants of the tour. Five of these wonderful animals were making their way slowly through some dense bush, eating where they wanted and able to quickly completely disappear out of view in the scrub when they chose.

A Tawny Eagle was filmed perched on a tree and, nearby, a Secretarybird was on its vast tree-top nest. A Pale Flycatcher was seen and the female Cheetah was refound, munching on the remains of the hind leg of a "Tommy" though not much of it was left. Her kittens were not with her and our guide explained that she would have left them not too far away in close cover.

A stately line of 24 Elephant passed us by, the youngest snuggled in the middle of the troupe looked after by the older animals. Another excellent repast awaited us back at camp but not until we had relaxed over a glass of wine or a beer around the campfire again.

Day 5

Tuesday 6th June

Views of one then nine more Elephant were a good way to start our game drive this morning. A Spotted Hyena allowed close photography and a big bull Buffalo sauntered off as we got perhaps a little too close to this, one of the most dangerous of African mammals.

Two single Rosy-breasted Longclaws were another new species for me and other good birds seen included a Capped Wheatear, some African White-backed and Ruppell's Griffon Vultures and two more Yellow-throated Sandgrouse flew over. Getting to grips with the various species of *Cisticola* encountered was proving very difficult and unfortunately our guides were not sufficiently familiar with these particular birds to help identify them.

Mammals were again widespread but numerous overall and species seen were similar to previous drives with 4 Warthog seen trotting past our van being as enjoyable as ever. Back at camp for lunch, a White-browed Robin-Chat, a honeyguide and a couple of Vervet monkeys entertained.

We were with Elly again this afternoon and our drive started well with a further two new species for me. This time, 2 Bare-faced Go-away-birds were followed not long after by the first of 2 Red-necked Spurfowl we saw today.

We were heading off in a different direction this afternoon, over the plain and toward a hill in the distance. Species along the way included White-bellied Bustard, a party of 10 Banded Mongooses, 4 more Yellow-throated Sandgrouse sped over, and antelope species were much as before. En route, we saw three more diminutive Kirk's Dik-dik and a brightly coloured Red Duiker.

After a while of zig-zagging our way up through the bush we parked up by our other two vans and the local Masai guided us, a few at a time, the few hundred metres for amazingly close range views of 3 White Rhinoceros – astonishing!

A very distinctive Verraux's Eagle was seen distantly along the escarpment and another Pale Flycatcher was seen perched on a low bush. On the return journey toward Kicheche Camp we paused to film a Kori Bustard. Some more Grey Crowned Cranes were seen as well as another Tawny Eagle and some Helmeted Guineafowl.

The female Cheetah and her kits were seen again but we moved quickly on so as to cause as little interference as possible. A probable Montane Nightjar that flew up from the track as we neared the camp was my fifteenth new species of the trip.

Day 6

Wednesday 7th June

Another day dawned and another morning game-drive, though one could surely never be bored with such spectacular wildlife and superb scenery. Today, some of our party went on a guided walk by Eric and the Masai around the outside of the camp to learn more of the Masai way of life and to be shown some of the many interesting plants and hear about the uses to which the Masai put them.

The rest of us went off in two of the vans out onto the savannah. Species seen included 8 Elephant, a White-bellied Bustard, 2 Lappet-faced Vultures and more Rufous-naped Larks. Another Rosy-breasted Longclaw was found and 4 Yellow-throated Longclaws. Two single White-tailed Larks were followed later by a singing Cabani's Greenbul and close views of 3 Temminck's Coursers – three new species for me in one morning! Wattled Starling and a probable Fawn-coloured Lark took our species of bird to 127. Four Tawny Eagles and a Bataleur completed a fine morning's list.

Thompson's Gazelles again dominated the mammal counts but there were also a total of 112 Gnu seen this morning plus 56 Zebra, 22 Grant's Gazelles, 75+ Impala, 2 Spotted Hyena and 5 Masai Giraffe.

A pair of Emerald Spotted Wood Doves and a probable Red-billed Firefinch flew past before lunch which was enlivened by a small party of Dwarf Mongooses trotting past our dining area. Four Grey-backed Cameroptera were noted before we left on our afternoon game drive at 4.30pm.

An Augur Buzzard looked like a mini Marshall Eagle and a pair of Greater Blue-eared Glossy Starlings were seen from Elly's van followed by mainly flight views of another new species: a Hartlaub's Turaco.

Thirty-three Buffalo had 16 Yellow-billed Oxpeckers hopping from back to back of them and 40 Common Eland were notable. Back at camp, we learnt that Sammy and just two of the others had had a brief view of a Leopard! After dinner, Annie escorted a few of us to the rear of the staff quarters where a brief glimpse of a Greater Bushbaby was had.

Day 7

Thursday 8th June

A good start to the day with the booming calls of a Southern Ground Hornbill heard soon after we woke, and then views of c.14 Elephants were seen from the porch of our tent. A Common Wattle-eye, a Lilac-breasted Roller, the local Slate-coloured Boubou and a Cabani's Greenbul were all seen before we left on our morning drive after breakfast at 7.45.

The Elephant herd had increased to 18 and some Grey-crowned Cranes, 4 Ruppell's Griffon Vultures, an Augur Buzzard and a flock of 24+ Wattled Starlings got us off to a good start from Sammy's van today. Four then 32 Eland were noted and a couple each of Warthog and Black-backed Jackal. All the usual Antelope and Zebra were in good numbers and small birds included Rufous-naped Larks, Yellow-throated and Rosy-breasted Longclaw, Grassland Pipits and various Cisticolas.

We stopped at a different location along the Mara River today, from 10.30. Davis and Elly were elsewhere, so just five of us and Sammy saw the numerous Hippo's here and a good variety of birds that included a Usembero Barbet, a White-fronted Bee-eater, 10+ Horus Swift, 5 Black Saw-wings, other hirundines and pairs of Swahili Sparrow and Lesser Honeyguide. A passage of vultures thermalling by involved all three local species and with them were half a dozen Marabou Storks and a Tawny Eagle.

Six Giraffe were seen then a species of Monitor Lizard by a small pool but I missed a Kirk's Dik-dik and a hare sp. moments before Sammy grounded the vehicle on a slope to a dried up creek crossing. It took well over an hour to dig ourselves free! We didn't get back for lunch until 2.15 by which time Elly was on his way out to search for us.

In a show of confidence, we went out again in the afternoon with Sammy, leaving Kicheche Camp at 4.25pm. We were on the alert for a Leopard but alas without success. We drove straight past Mrs Cheetah, her cubs low in the grasses alongside, as other vehicles were about her and we all wanted to avoid disturbance to the family as much as possible.

A small herd of 10 Coke's Hartebeeste were enjoyed as well as all the other common mammals. A Denham's Bustard was my 20th new species for the trip and soon after we twice saw a White-bellied Bustard. We had by now met up with the other two vans atop a hill and all of us thoroughly enjoyed our "sundowners" watching the sun glow red and sink below the horizon with our chosen drink from their makeshift bar and some tasty nibbles to hand.

Day 8

Friday 9th June

We left the camp early today, at 6.35am. An immature Black-chested Snake Eagle showed well – some of the others had seen an adult yesterday, then 3 White-bellied Bustards flew by. A Black-crowned Tchagra was, at last, seen well enough to confirm its full identification. We were all headed off to a different more scrubby area and once there parked up beside a male and five female Lions lolling amongst the bushes for shade from another warm sunny day. A slender-tailed Nightjar was spotted roosting. A Scarlet-chested Sunbird was seen by some of the others whilst a showy White-browed Coucal was bird species 141 for the trip. Other mammals seen included 8 Topi and a Black-backed Jackal but I missed 5 Warthogs.

We headed in convoy back to the same riverside location we'd had breakfast at on Monday, adding a White Stork walking through the grassland en route. We parked up at 8.40 and had our largest count, of 13, Egyptian Geese on the river trying to avoid the packed herd of perhaps 70 Hippopotamuses present. Birds seen during breakfast included a Usembiro Barbet, Lappet-faced Vulture, 3 African White-backed Vultures, c.30 African Sand Martins, 3 Horus Swifts, a Malachite Kingfisher and the White Stork seen earlier flew overhead.

Several of our party now travelled with Davis and Sammy to visit the local Masai village where the men and women put on a great welcome of singing and dance. Masai guides showed how the houses were built, by the women, and talked to the group inside one. There were opportunities to buy artefacts made by the people as well. The Masai are keeping to their traditional way of life and long may it remain so!

Those, including me, not visiting the village continued on with Elly. We set off from the river at 9.45 but this time it was Elly who got us grounded though, thankfully, for only a few minutes. Two terrapin sp. were by a pool with 2 Three-banded Plovers but a glimpsed (presumed) African Snipe dropping into deep cover was not relocated. Parties of 8 Yellow-fronted Canaries and 4 Pale Flycatchers then a dark-phase Augur Buzzard were of interest but I was rather disappointed that we were driven straight back to camp as I had hoped for a bit more "birding" whilst the majority were at the village. We were dropped back at 10.35am which gave us the opportunity to do some early packing and settle our bar bills before we set out this afternoon!

During this period, we had further views of the local Slate-coloured Boubou, Grey-backed Cameropteras, Wire-tailed Swallow, Baglaffeht Weaver and Arrow-marked Babblers, also sightings of three Ostrich, a Lappet-faced Vulture and pairs of Yellow-throated Longclaw and Greater Blue-eared Glossy Starling. A possible Jacobin Cuckoo was seen though the closely related and similar Levillant's Cuckoo couldn't be ruled out on this brief and distant view.

We travelled with Davis again this afternoon, leaving camp at about 4.25 and firstly again thoroughly enjoying the close sight of a herd of 16 Elephants, a dozen of which we had seen from our tent earlier. Gnu had, to my mind at least, increased during the week and I counted 153 of them this afternoon.

Four White-bellied Bustards, a female with four juvenile Red-necked Spurfowl and another new species for me were seen, this time two single Coqui Francolin.

Two Spotted Hyena were seen distantly causing two young Masai boys out with the cattle herds to sit low well out of their sight. We had always got the protection of the vehicles and the skill and experience of our drivers to rely on but this brought home to us the intrinsic dangers of life out here, the Masai wandering round with their herds with only a pointed stick and their distinctive red blankets for protection. These young lads hadn't reached the stature of a red blanket yet!

Three Warthog were seen but otherwise animals were in lower numbers where we travelled this afternoon. We got back to camp earlier than usual and were disappointed and envious to learn that Elly's team had seen two different Verraux's Eagle Owls. So our week's tally was lower than hoped with 144 species now confirmed. We lingered over our last campfire drinks and evening meal. We'd all had a wonderful time.

Day 9

Saturday 10th June

Some of the party wanted to do the walk around the outside of the camp again this morning. About the camp, 3 Bare-faced Go-away-birds and 3 White-browed Robin-Chats were the avian highlights and a good selection of mammals were 'scoped out' on the savannah.

After completing our packing and making our farewells, we set out from Kicheche for the long drive back to Nairobi. No new mammals were added to our list but a couple of chunky red and black finches proved to be one more new species for me, Red-headed Bluebill.

Other birds seen along the first two-hour haul to Narok were as we'd come to expect. Unfortunately Elly, who we were travelling with, had a puncture just as we reached the town and it then exploded at the local garage! At the adjacent restaurant, some had an early snack and others looked about the pleasant grounds of this busy roadside halt. 2 Red-winged Starlings, 3 African Paradise Flycatchers, 3 Red-rumped Swallows, 2 Grey Woodpeckers, and single Variable, Amethyst and Scarlet-chested Sunbirds all gave good views.

Our last mammals of this excellent trip were seen as we sped along the main road toward Nairobi and included 16 or more Thompson's Gazelles and about a dozen Masai Giraffe. Birds seen included 3 Sacred Ibis, 2 Hamerkop, 4 Pied Crows, a Marabou Stork and some Speckled Pigeons.

As we were a little ahead of the other two vehicles, Elly kindly offered to take us on a short diversion as we were near Nairobi so we could stop beside a marshy lake for fifteen minutes. This gave me a flurry of late additions to our species list. Red-knobbed Coots were numerous; at least 3 Little Grebes were seen plus a Grey Heron, 2 Black-headed Herons, an Intermediate Egret, 3 Southern Pochard and 2 Red-billed Teal. Species seen earlier in the trip and seen again here included 13 Sacred Ibis, a few Cattle Egrets, 2 Yellow-billed Ducks, 3 Cape Rooks, 4+ Blacksmith Plovers, a Malachite Kingfisher and several Whiskered Terns.

We got back to the Boulevard Hotel, Nairobi only a few minutes behind the others who hadn't taken our diversion, at 4.10pm. This was just in time to check into our rooms and dash to a bar for a beer and to watch England beat Paraguay 1-0 in their opening World Cup game.

After a shower and a change of clothes, we had a last look round the grounds of the hotel. Sixteen Hadada Ibis were coming into roost and other species here included 3 Olive Thrushes and an African Pied Wagtail. Best though were a party of 8 Cinnamon-breasted Bee-eaters huddled along the branch of a tree over-hanging the stream – my 23rd new species of bird and my 154th confirmed sighting of this 8-day trip.

After a drink and a bar meal, we checked out of the hotel again, made our thanks to our three guides, loaded the luggage and left for the airport at 8.00pm. Officials hastened us quickly through into the buildings so, having said goodbye to Elly, we unfortunately missed saying an extra goodbye and thanks to Davis and to Sammy.

We were checked through by 8.45, watched some of the Argentina v Ivory Coast World Cup match and eventually took off a little late at 11.47pm. Another good flight and we landed at Heathrow at 6.10am on Sunday 11th June, said our last goodbyes to most of our colleagues on the trip, met up with a friend who we'd arrange to collect us and headed home for Bedfordshire (and views of the County's second-ever Red-footed Falcon that had been discovered the previous evening!).

Summary

This was yet another excellent value for money trip run by Naturetrek. The organisation was seamless and our guides congenial and generally very able. We had amassed a total of 161 species of bird and 29 mammal species between us, a very good tally given the limited variation of habitat inevitable in a trip designed to show people the array of antelope and other game to be found in this corner of Kenya. This was undoubtedly a very successful trip.

The fantastic close views of such as the Cheetah family, the Elephants and the Lions will linger in the memory for many years to come. The accommodation at both Elsamere and at Kicheche Camp was truly excellent. Our companions on the trip were all pleasant and friendly and we all got on well with each other as exhibited by the readiness with which we changed vans with each other to share the enjoyment and get to know our three guides better. Almost en bloc we'd watched England's match together as well!

Martin J Palmer – September 2006

Species report prepared by Martin J Palmer

All observations listed below were by Martin Palmer and/or Diana Palmer unless noted otherwise. There were 13 on the tour plus our 3 guides, Sammy, Davis (the leader) and Elly (not Junior!). We travelled in three observation vans with lifting roof panels to allow us to stand and see and film game and birdlife easily. Not all of the party saw every species as, for example, the vans would fan out over the vast plains of the Masai Mara Game Reserve on our regular game drives and all of the trip members mixed about with different van loads and drivers daily. Those species in bold type were confirmed identifications, those in ordinary type less certain for the reasons given in the notes for that species or were seen by other than MJP or DCP.

Birds

1. Common Ostrich

Small numbers were seen daily on the Masai Mara Game Reserve from 4th to 10th June with a maximum of 6 on the 6th and 7th June.

2. Little Grebe

At least 3 were present at a lakeside stop nearing Nairobi on our return journey on 10th June.

3. Great White Pelican

25 were counted on Lake Naivasha from our boat-trip on 3rd June and 4 were 'scoped on the lake from grounds of our accommodation at Elsamere on 4th June.

4. White-breasted Cormorant

A total of 29 were at Lake Naivasha on 3rd June plus another 9 that were either this species or the next on the distant views obtained.

5. Long-tailed Cormorant

At least 14 were identified at Lake Naivasha on 3rd June.

6. Little Bittern

Three were seen from our boat trip on Lake Naivasha on 3rd June.

7. Cattle Egret

2 were seen on our journey from Nairobi to Elsamere on 3rd and a total of 26 were seen by MJP and/or CM on 4th June. A single bird was seen on our return journey between Narok and Nairobi on 10th June plus a few more were seen at the lakeside stop nearing the city.

8. Little Egret

3 singles were at L. Naivasha on 3rd June, the last seen flying past our accommodation at Elsamere.

9. Squacco Heron

2 singles were at L. Naivasha on 3rd June, our only sightings, the latter past the hotel at Elsamere.

10. Intermediate (Yellow-billed) Egret

At least 1 was seen at our lakeside stop nearing Nairobi on 10th June.

11. Black-headed Heron

2 were seen at our lakeside stop on the return journey near Nairobi on 10th June.

12. Grey Heron

1 was seen at the lakeside stop on our return journey near Nairobi on 10th June.

13. Purple Heron

2 or 3 were seen between us during our boat trip on Lake Naivasha on 3rd June.

14. Goliath Heron

2 or 3 were seen between us during our boat trip on Lake Naivasha on 3rd June and a single was 'scoped before leaving our overnight accommodation at Elsamere on 4th June.

15. Hamerkop

Only 8 were seen - 3 singles were seen at Lake Naivasha on 3rd June, 2 were by the River Mara on 5th and another was by the River Mara on 8th June and, lastly, 2 were seen by a roadside pool between Narok and Nairobi on our return journey on 10th June.

16. White Stork

2 singles were seen on 9th June near the River Mara, possibly the second, a flight view, was of the same bird seen on the savanna earlier. 3 stork sp. seen in flight very distantly on 5th June over the Masai Mara Game Reserve were either this sp. or Yellow-billed Storks but their tail colour was not seen adequately.

17. Marabou Stork

A dozen were recorded - 2 seen in flight from the road as we approached our first destination, Elsamere, on 3rd June; 3 were seen as we journeyed from Elsamere to Narok on 4th June; a total of 6 were in flight (amongst several vultures passing over) near the River Mara on the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 8th and, lastly, a single was seen as we travelled from Narok toward Nairobi on 10th June.

18. Sacred Ibis

20 were seen - 4 at Lake Naivasha on 3rd June; 3 between Narok and Nairobi on 10th and 13 at our return journey lakeside stop near Nairobi also on 10th June.

19. Hadada Ibis

This species was common about Nairobi with fewer seen elsewhere and none during our stay at the Kicheche Camp on the Masai Mara Game Reserve. We were woken as dawn broke on our first morning in Nairobi by the screeches of large numbers of Hadada leaving their roosts in the riverside trees by the Boulevard Hotel. At least 4 were seen as we travelled from Nairobi toward the Rift Valley viewpoint on 3rd June and 2 more were seen at Lake Naivasha then 2 at Elsamere by the lakeside later that day. 3+ were seen next morning before leaving Elsamere then no more till our last day, 10th June, when 2 were seen between Kicheche Camp and the B3

highway, 1 at Narok, 1 between Narok and Nairobi and 16 were seen flying in to roost back at the Boulevard Hotel, Nairobi toward dusk.

20. Fulvous Whistling Duck

7 plus were seen during our lakeside stop nearing Nairobi on our return journey on 10th June.

21. White-faced Whistling Duck

2 were seen on a roadside pool on 3rd June as we travelled away from Nairobi and quite a few more were seen during our lakeside stop nearing Nairobi on our return journey on 10th June.

22. Egyptian Goose

A total of 28 were recorded. The largest group was of 13 were seen on the River Mara on 9th June. Other records were of 3 at Lake Naivasha on 3rd; a pair between Narok and the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 4th; single pairs on the reserve on 7th and 8th and single pairs on 10th June by the B3 toward Narok, between Narok and Nairobi and at our lakeside stop nearing Nairobi.

23. Red-billed Teal

2 were seen during our lakeside stop nearing Nairobi on our return journey on 10th June.

24. Yellow-billed Duck

3 were seen at Lake Naivasha from Elsamere on 3rd June plus another on the lake later in the day, and 1 was seen flying past our accommodation there next morning. Then no more until 2 were seen during our lakeside stop nearing Nairobi on our last day journey on 10th June.

25. Southern Pochard

3 were seen during our lakeside stop nearing Nairobi on our return journey on 10th June.

26. Secretarybird

One was seen at close range on 5th June striding across the savanna of the Masai Mara Game Reserve and, a little later toward evening, it or its mate was seen low down in a large tree-top nest.

Vulture species

Unidentified vultures were seen, nearly always distantly as follows; 6 over the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th June and 9 were seen from Kicheche Camp the same day; 6 were seen from Kicheche Camp on 6th June plus another single over the reserve; 20+ were seen near the Mara River thermalling on 8th June and then a total of 3 were seen from Kicheche Camp on 9th June.

27. African White-backed Vulture

3 confirmed records of a total of 8 birds, 4 on 6th, 1 juvenile on 8th and 3 on 9th June all during game drives across the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

28. Ruppell's Griffon Vulture

3 confirmed records, all 7 birds being seen during game drives across the Masai Mara Game Reserve with 2 on 6th June, 1 on 7th and up to 4 on 8th June.

29. Lappet-faced Vulture

A total of 8 were seen as follows; 2 were seen from Kicheche Camp on 5th June, 2 singles were over the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 7th, 2 on 8th and 1 on 9th June when also another single was seen from Kicheche Camp.

30. Black-chested Snake Eagle

An immature was seen perched in trees and in low flight over the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 9th June and some others in our party reported seeing an adult on 8th June.

31. Bataleur

On 5th June, there were 3 sightings, the first by some of the others on our trip over the Masai Mara Game Reserve, and later we saw another, either of which could have been the third sighting seen over Kicheche Camp. We twice saw another Bataleur over the Game Reserve on 7th June.

African Marsh Harrier

A single was reported by some in one of the other vans on our trip during a morning game-drive across the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th June but whether this sp. or Eurasian Marsh Harrier was unclear.

32. Shikra

A small raptor seen flying low and fast through the grounds of Elsamere on 3rd June was very likely a Shikra on smallish size and lack of an obvious white patch to the tail.

33. Gabar Goshawk

A compact raptor seen quite near our camp on 8th June was thought more likely this species on view obtained than the next

34. Lizard Buzzard

One seen perched briefly and then in away flight through trees soon after we left Kicheche Camp for our late afternoon game-drive on 5th June was considered to have been this species on structure, white rump and tail bars.

35. Augur Buzzard

A total of 9 were seen as follows; 5 singles were seen during the long drive from Nairobi to Elsamere, Lake Naivasha on 3rd June and another between Elsamere and Narok on 4th; Singles were also seen over the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 7th, 8th and 9th June, the last seen being a dark phase bird.

36. African Fish Eagle

On 3rd June a total of 9 were seen, though some may have been repeat sightings. The first 2 were seen from the van as we neared Elsamere, then 3 were seen from the grounds before at least an extra 4 were seen from our boat trip on Lake Naivasha in the afternoon. A single was seen before we left Elsamere the next morning and the only other sighting was distantly of 2 near the Mara River on the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th June.

37. Tawny Eagle

Up to 10 were seen during our trip. One was seen and photographed perched in a low tree on the evening of 5th June at the Masai Mara Game Reserve and earlier in the day a distant “aquila” ‘scoped from the bank of the Mara

River was thought likely to have been this species on subsequent commonness in the area. Singles were then seen over the Reserve on 6th and 8th and up to 5 Tawny Eagles were logged on 7th June including 2 dwarfed in flight by a Lappet-faced Vulture. An eagle sat in a field as we sped past on our journey from Narok back to Nairobi on 10th June was also thought most likely to have been this species.

38. Verreaux's Eagle

Just one was seen, identified by its unmistakable flight silhouette and wing patches, lazily flying along the escarpment above the "Rhino hill" on the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 6th June.

39. Martial Eagle

We identified a single bird from Kicheche Camp just before we left for our afternoon game drive on 5th June and then relocated it soon afterwards to give everyone good views.

40. Yellow-billed Kite

Quite a few were seen from the Boulevard Hotel, Nairobi on our first morning, 3rd June including one perched and videoed clearly showing the yellow bill of *milvus (migrans) parasitus* present at this time of year. The migratory, Black Kite *milvus (migrans) migrans* is generally present between October and March. 6 more were seen on 3rd June as we drove out of Nairobi then no more till we neared Nairobi again on 10th June when 2 were seen at a lakeside stop and 4 more on the drive into the city.

41. Harlequin Quail

We found a single bird at Masai Mara Game Reserve on our first game-drive on the afternoon of 4th June which though seen only in flight was flushed up by our van's progress on three occasions.

42. Coqui Francolin

We found 2 single birds during our last game-drive, on 9th June.

43. Red-necked Spurfowl

2 single, possibly repeats were seen during our afternoon game-drive across the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 6th June and on 9th June an adult was seen with 4 small juveniles to guide.

44. Helmeted Guineafowl

All records were at Masai Mara Game Reserve with 2 seen and 1 heard on 4th June, 8 then a single seen on 5th, 8 seen then 1 heard on 6th and 2 seen on 7th June.

45. Black Crake

3 were seen on 3rd June along the shoreline of Lake Naivasha.

46. Red-knobbed Coot

This species was numerous at our lakeside stop nearing Nairobi on our return journey on 10th June.

47. Grey Crowned Crane

A total of 99 were seen with all records from the Masai Mara Game Reserve. 2 were seen as we neared completion of our journey from Narok to Kicheche Camp on 4th June then a flock of 62 were seen on the

reserve that afternoon and 2 more late in the day. Subsequently we saw 2 on 5th, totals of 9 on 6th, 17 on 7th and, lastly, up to 5 on 8th June.

48. Denham's Bustard

A single was seen out on the savanna on evening of 8th June shortly before our three vans joined up for "sundowners" to watch the African sunset.

49. Kori Bustard

One was photographed late afternoon at Masai Mara Game Reserve on 6th June.

50. White-bellied Bustard

All records were at Masai Mara Game Reserve with 1 on 6th June, 1 on 7th, 1 twice on 8th, 3 in the morning and 4 in the afternoon of 9th June though 2 of the last were likely to have been repeats of birds seen during the morning.

51. Black-bellied Bustard

Our only one was found on 4th June during our first game-drive at the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

52. Temminck's Courser

On 7th June, very good views were enjoyed of 3 at the Masai Mara Game Reserve running along in front of our vans and eventually flying a short distance. The somewhat similar Somali Courser and Cream-coloured Courser do not occur in this part of Kenya, the latter being a rarity.

53. Three-banded Plover

1 was seen and photographed during our breakfast stop by the Mara River on 5th June and 2 were seen at a small pool not far from this riverside spot on 9th June.

54. Blacksmith Plover

2 were seen at a roadside pool between Nairobi and the Rift Valley viewpoint on 3rd June and 1 was seen at Lake Naivasha that afternoon. On our return journey on 10th June, 4+ were seen at our lakeside stop nearing Nairobi.

55. Crowned Plover

The commonest wader encountered, about 50 were seen in total and were recorded every day of our trip. 2 were seen between the Longanot viewpoint and Elsamere on 3rd then, at the Masai Mara Game Reserve we totalled 2 on 4th, up to 9 on 5th, 5 on 6th, 14 on 7th, a few on 8th and 13 on 9th June. Lastly, 2 were seen between leaving Kicheche Camp and reaching the B3 highway on 10th June.

56. African Snipe

A single bird seen briefly in flight dropping into long grasses near a pool by the Mara River on 9th June was possibly this species but we couldn't drive close enough to flush it again to confirm and you don't go walking about in long grass in a game reserve! Other snipe sp. are winter migrants to Kenya

57. Greenshank

One seen from our boat trip on Lake Naivasha on 3rd June was considered to be this species rather than the similar proportioned but smaller and more slender Marsh Sandpiper on a rather distant view.

58. Grey-headed Gull

2 singles were seen at Elsamere on 3rd June and then 5 more were seen during our boat trip on Lake Naivasha that afternoon and 1 flew past Elsamere next morning.

59. Gull-billed Tern

One in non-breeding plumage was seen at Lake Naivasha on 3rd June and was bigger than the accompanying Whiskered Terns and showed the diagnostic black ear-covert flash.

60. Whiskered Tern

Up to 17 were seen during our boat trip on Lake Naivasha on 3rd June and several were seen at our lakeside stop nearing Nairobi on our return journey on 10th June.

61. Yellow-throated Sandgrouse

A total of 9 birds were seen over 3 days, all at the Masai Mara Game Reserve and all 5 records were in flight so their identification was circumstantial in this being the one species of five on the Kenyan list that occurs in this region. Two were seen on 5th, 2 then 3 then 1 on 6th and 1 more on 9th June.

62. Emerald-spotted Wood Dove

The evocative “boo,boo,boo,boo,boo,boo” rapidly descending call notes readily identify this species. All records were from Kicheche Camp where one or two were heard daily from 7th to 10th June but the only sighting was of two in flight viewed at close range on 7th June.

63. Speckled Pigeon

Our first of the trip was seen between Nairobi and the Rift Valley viewpoint on 3rd June and up to 5 were seen at Elsamere that afternoon. A total of almost 70 was seen as we travelled between Elsamere and Narok on 4th June. 8 were seen distantly along the “Rhino ridge” at the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 6th and 6 were seen between Narok and Nairobi on 10th June.

64. Red-eyed Dove

One of the two common dove species encountered, seen and/or heard in single figure numbers on most days. The call “I am the Red-eyed Dove” being one of the most well known African bird sounds.

65. Ring-necked Dove

The other common dove species encountered on our trip and seen and/or heard almost daily and in similar numbers to Red-eyed Dove, a dozen on the 8th June being the highest daily total logged. Their “Botswana” calls being almost equally well-known and readily identified.

66. Laughing Dove

Up to 6 were seen on the way to Elsamere, Lake Naivasha on 3rd June and up to 5 more between Elsamere and Kicheche Camp on 4th June. One was seen at Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th June then no more until a total of 4 were noted as we returned from Kicheche Camp to Nairobi on 10th June

67. Fischer's Lovebird

3, later 2 more though possibly repeats, of these charming little parrots seen at Elsamere on 3rd June were likely hybrid Fischer's x Yellow-collared Parrots, *agapornis fischeri* x *a. personatus* as "Birds of Kenya & Northern Tanzania" states "locally common around Lake Naivasha"

68. Hartlaub's Turaco

One at the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 7th June was seen a few times in flight along a woodland edge. Sammy, one of our guides, heard a turaco species on 8th but did not know the precise species.

69. Bare-faced Go-away-bird

Just two records - 2 were seen at the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 6th June and 3 were seen from Kicheche Camp there on 10th June.

70. Jacobin/Levaillant's Cuckoo

A single bird seen too briefly past Kicheche Camp on 9th was either one of these two species and from description was seen by another of our party on 10th June.

71. White-browed Coucal

Single birds heard on 6th and 7th June and eventually one seen very well and photographed at the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 9th June.

72. Verraux's Eagle Owl

Two were seen by four of the others in our party from one of the other vans during our last game drive of the trip over the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 9th June.

73. Montane Nightjar

A nightjar flushed from the track as we returned to Kicheche Camp at dusk on 6th June was thought most likely this species on detail seen, terrain and range rather than Dusky or Slender-tailed Nightjar.

74. Slender-tailed Nightjar

One seen from the vans in daylight roosting not far from a pride of Lion in the bush on 9th June was considered most likely this species on greyness and length of the tail showing beyond the wingtips.

75. White-rumped Swift

Six plus were seen near dusk at Elsamere on 3rd June and another en route to Narok on 4th. Another swift sp. on 4th and 2 seen between Narok and Nairobi on 10th June were also possibly this species.

76. Horus Swift

3 on 5th June near the Mara River, 10 plus at a different location by this river on 8th June and 3 on 9th June at the first location were the only records of this species readily identified by curved white rump, shallow tail cleft, white throat and silvery underwing.

77. Little Swift

Two swifts seen from Boulevard Hotel, Nairobi on 3rd June were thought probably this species and quite a few then 8 typically flying low around road bridges as we drove away from Nairobi mid morning were certainly this species.

78. Speckled Mousebird

A total of some 25 birds were recorded. They were encountered almost every day, as singles or in small parties, at Elsamere, Lake Naivasha on 3rd and 4th June, Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th, 6th and 9th June, about Kicheche Camp on 7th and 10th June and on our journeys.

79. Malachite Kingfisher

2 at Lake Naivasha on 3rd June, 1 by the Mara River, Masai Mara Game Reserve on 9th June and 1 at our lakeside stop nearing Nairobi on our return drive on 10th June were the only records.

80. Pied Kingfisher

1 seen at Elsamere and 3 at Lake Naivasha on 3rd June then 1 by the Mara River, Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th June were the only records though a large kingfisher sp. seen very briefly by the stream past the Boulevard Hotel, Nairobi on 3rd June was also likely to be this widespread kingfisher.

81. White-fronted Bee-eater

One photographed by the Mara River, Masai Mara Game Reserve on 8th June was the only record.

82. Little Bee-eater

Three individual Bee-eater sp. were seen briefly as we sped along between Elsamere and Narok on 4th June then one was heard and glimpsed at Kicheche Camp the same afternoon and, lastly, one was seen from our passing van perched on the edge of some scrub woodland at the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th June. These were our only sightings of this widespread species.

83. Cinnamon-breasted Bee-eater

A surprise addition to the trip list on our last evening, 10th June. We had returned to the Boulevard Hotel, Nairobi and watched England beat Paraguay 1-0 in their opening World Cup match then, during a pre-meal stroll round the hotel gardens, a total of 8 were seen together, mostly perched on one small branch overhanging the adjacent stream.

84. Lilac Breasted Roller

A single was seen on the journey from the Longanot viewpoint to Elsamere on 3rd June and another was seen in the grounds at Elsamere, Lake Naivasha upon our arrival. These were followed by a number of sightings at the Masai Mara Game Reserve with 4 seen on 5th, singles on 6th and 7th, 2 on 8th and 2 on 9th June. Another single was seen at Kicheche Camp on 8th June.

85. African Hoopoe

At least 3 were present about the grounds of our accommodation at Elsamere on 3rd June, one being videoed, and two were seen there before we left the next morning. The wing pattern differs from Eurasian Hoopoe.

86. Southern Ground Hornbill

The unmistakable deep booming call of this species was heard from outside our tent soon after dawn had broken on 8th June. The identification, from my description of the call, was confirmed by Eric, the camp manager, and by reference to "Birds of Kenya & Northern Tanzania".

87. African Grey Hornbill

One was seen very well in the grounds of our accommodation at Elsamere on 3rd June when the bill colour and pattern confirmed it as a female. The same or another was seen twice early morning on 4th June before we left Elsamere at 7.45am for our long journey to Kicheche Camp.

88. D'Arnaud's (Usembiro) Barbet

On range these birds would have been Usembiro Barbets which some authorities have now split from D'Arnaud's Barbet. 3 singles were seen by the River Mara at the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th, 8th and 9th June, the first and third were likely to have been the same bird. Another was seen on 10th June as we journeyed from Kicheche Camp toward the B3 highway.

89. Greater/Scaly-throated Honeyguide

One was seen p.m. at Kicheche Camp on 5th June and twice on 6th June. The first two sightings were in flight and the latter perched briefly near the camp dining area and was either one of these two species. The tail pattern was diagnostic of honeyguides and the speckles to the throat and rear flanks of the perched bird made it either Scaly-throated Honeyguide or a female Greater Honeyguide.

90. Lesser Honeyguide

Two were seen by the Mara River during a morning stop on 8th June, their identity confirmed by the pale bill base and on range.

91. Nubian Woodpecker

The single moustachial and underpart spots, as well as the range of this and other woodpecker species, confirmed the identity of a bird seen at Elsamere on 3rd June.

92. Bearded Woodpecker

A pair was seen really well during the afternoon of 3rd June at Elsamere, including coition, and one of the pair was seen again the next morning before breakfast.

93. Grey Woodpecker

A pair was seen at Elsamere on 3rd and 4th June and another pair was seen in the restaurant grounds at our luncheon stop at Narok on 10th June.

94. Rufous-naped Lark

The most common species of Lark seen on the tour, they were frequently seen perched on a low bush or post and calling loudly and somewhat plaintively. They were easily identified by their large size and on range. The log list provided to us excluded this species in favour of the superficially similar Red-winged Lark which does not occur anywhere near this area of Kenya. 16 were seen and/or heard between Elsamere and Kicheche Camp on 4th June then seen and/or heard about Masai Mara Game Reserve as follows; 2 on 5th June, 3 on 6th, 12 on 7th, 7 on 8th and 8 on 9th. Lastly, 4 were seen between Kicheche Camp and Narok on 10th June.

95. Fawn-coloured Lark

The frustrating lark species of the trip, especially about the Masai Mara Game Reserve. Single birds on 7th and 9th June were thought to be this species rather than the similar Flappet Lark. A good number of the 22 or so unidentified lark species seen during our game drives plus the few on our journeys on 4th and 10th June would have been either of these two species but, being primarily a Mammal tour, only rarely was it practical to stop to scrutinize "small brown jobs".

96. Red-capped Lark

A distinctive and quite common species, particularly as the local race *calandrella cinera saturator* is so brightly brown capped. 14 were positively identified about the Masai Mara Game Reserve as we bumped across the savanna on our game drives with 6 on 5th, 2 on 6th, 5 on 7th and 1 on 9th June.

97. White-tailed Lark

A small but quite distinctive small short-tailed lark species with obvious white outer tail feathers, 2 were confirmed on 7th June during game drives over the Masai Mara Game Reserve.

98. African Sand (Plain) Martin

Just under 100 were seen in total with 28 plus seen at Lake Naivasha on 3rd June, 1 seen between Elsamere and Narok on 4th June; at least 22 were seen over the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th June and 10 plus were seen there on 8th and c30 on 9th June.

99. Wire-tailed Swallow

One or more were seen most days with a total of 12 recorded, though this tally would have included some repeat sightings. The first was seen between Elsamere and Narok on 4th June and later 1 was seen at Kicheche Camp where 3 more were seen on 5th, 1 on 6th, 2 on 7th, 1 on 9th and 1 on 10th June. Also, singles were seen elsewhere about the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 6th and 7th June.

100. Barn Swallow

One the three seen about Masai Mara Game Reserve on 8th June and 3 between Kicheche Camp and highway B3 on 10th June were the only confirmed sightings although quite a few unidentified swallow sp. seen between Elsamere and Narok on 4th June and singles during our game drives on 7th and 8th June could also have been this species.

101. Red-rumped Swallow

Up to 11 were seen during our drive from Elsamere to Narok on 4th June, 1 was seen at the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th and 2 on 8th June. 3 were seen at our luncheon stop at Narok on 10th June and a single bird, probably this species, was seen between Narok and Nairobi later that day.

102. African Rock Martin

A single was seen at Lake Naivasha on 3rd June and another single was seen between Elsamere and Narok on 4th June.

103. Lesser Striped Swallow

1 was seen by the Mara River on 8th June and 5 were seen at another riverside stop in the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 9th June.

104. Black Saw-wing

5 were seen over the Mara River on 8th June.

105. African Pied Wagtail

A probable was seen between Elsamere and Narok on 4th June and another single was by the Mara River on 5th June. Lastly, 2 were seen at the Boulevard Hotel, Nairobi on 10th June.

106. Grassland Pipit

The only pipit species identified and seen in small numbers daily about the Masai Mara Game Reserve between 5th and 10th June. A total of 37 were noted with a maximum of 10 on 6th June.

107. Yellow-throated Longclaw

A total of 5 possibles were seen briefly as we drove along from Narok to Kicheche Camp on 4th June and 2 birds definitely of this species were seen by the camp on both 9th and 10th June. Elsewhere about the Masai Mara Game Reserve, other positive identifications were of 4 were seen on 5th, 2 on 6th, 4 on 7th and 1 on 8th June.

108. Rosy-breasted Longclaw

A total of just 4 birds were seen, all at the Masai Mara Game Reserve with 2 seen on 6th June and singles on 7th and 8th June.

109. Cabani's Greenbul

Good views were had of one seen during a morning game drive about Masai Mara Game Reserve on 7th June. A bird seen singing at Kicheche Camp on 8th June was considered to be this species and conceivably the same bird was heard there the following day.

A small drab brown passerine at Elsamere on afternoon of 3rd June with paler throat and singing was possibly a greenbul species but remained unidentified specifically.

110. Common Bulbul

Seen every day in small numbers with a maximum of 13 on 4th and a minimum of 3 on 5th. On 3rd June, about 4 were seen at the Boulevard Hotel, Nairobi plus 1 at the Longanot viewpoint then at least 2 more at Elsamere

that day. 2 were seen there again on 4th and 5 were seen on the journey to the Masai Mara Game Reserve then up to 6 at Kicheche Camp were noted. 3 were seen about the Reserve on 5th then this species was seen and heard daily through to our departure on 10th June when 5 were about the camp and another 3 were seen on our journey back to Nairobi.

111. Arrow-marked Babbler

Five were at Elsamere, Lake Naivasha on 3rd June. Two were seen about the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th then 1 was seen at Kicheche Camp on 6th where 2 singles were seen on 7th and 1 seen and a few more heard on 8th June. Three were seen at the camp on 9th and 3 more were seen on our game drives that day. Lastly, at least 1 was about Kicheche Camp before we left on 10th June.

112. Schalow's (Abyssinian Black) Wheatear

A male and two females were seen well at a roadside café "loo stop" on our journey between Elsamere and Narok on 4th June.

113. Capped Wheatear

An adult was seen well during our morning drive about the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 6th June.

114. Northern Anteater Chat

About 28 were seen, the first 3 being seen along the journey from Nairobi to Elsamere on 3rd June. Twenty were seen between Elsamere and Narok on 4th June. Single birds were noted about the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th and 8th where 2 were seen on 9th June and, lastly, one or two were seen between Narok and Nairobi on 10th June.

115. Olive Thrush

A few were about the grounds of the Boulevard Hotel, Nairobi early on 3rd June and 3 were seen when we returned there late afternoon on 10th June.

116. White-eyed Slaty Flycatcher

One was seen at the Boulevard Hotel, Nairobi on 3rd June then an adult and a juvenile were later seen about the grounds of Elsamere, Lake Naivasha with one of them seen again 4th June.

117. Pale Flycatcher

Singles were seen about Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th and 6th June and a family party of 4 were seen there on 9th.

118. Lesser Swamp Warbler

Two were seen from a boat trip on Lake Naivasha on 3rd June with the boatman seeing an extra one.

119 and 120 Cisticola species

Seen and/or heard every day on our Masai Mara Game Reserve drives from 6th to 10th June with a total of over 40 recorded. Our drivers were unfortunately unable to give any guidance as to what species we were encountering but they fell into two simple categories of "large cisticola sp." and "small cisticola sp." though probably more than just two species were involved. Often the birds seen were also in song. One frequently seen

small species uttered a “zip, zip, zip, zip” call note but at twice the speed and without the bounding display flight than would a Zitting Cisticola, whereas many of the larger birds had a more tuneful call, but were not Rattling Cisticolas from personal experience. As this was primarily a “mammal trip”, it was not practical (nor fair to others) to stop frequently during the drives to give individual birds the close scrutiny needed to formally identify members of this group so virtually all were “drive-past” views.

121. Tawny-flanked Prinia

On range, all 9 of the Prinias encountered were of this species and most were seen well enough to confirm that identification. Singles were seen at Elsamere, Lake Naivasha on 3rd and 4th June and at Kicheche Camp on 6th, 8th and 10th June. Further singles were seen about Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th and 7th June with 2 seen on 9th June.

122. Grey-backed Camaroptera

All records came from Kicheche Camp where a pair was seen on 5th June then 4 on 7th, at least 2 seen singing plus others heard on 9th and a total of 6 encountered on 10th June.

123. Grey-capped Warbler

A very smart species indeed, a single bird was seen and videoed in the grounds of Elsamere, Lake Naivasha on 3rd and 4th June.

124. Yellow White-eye

Just one was seen, at Elsamere, Lake Naivasha on 3rd June – the obvious eye-ring as well as range confirmed it as this species rather than Abyssinian White-eye which has a narrower eye-ring.

125. African Paradise Flycatcher

Two seen at the Boulevard Hotel, Nairobi on 3rd were followed by a pair seen at Kicheche Camp on 5th where a male was seen on 6th and a supposed nest of this species was shown to some by the camp manager on 7th June. Three were seen at Narok on 10th June and, lastly, a male was again seen at the Boulevard Hotel, Nairobi that day.

126. Common Wattle-eye

A male was seen at Kicheche Camp on morning of 8th June – we were not quite in the range of the similar Black-throated Wattle-eye.

127. Pin-tailed Whydah

A total of at least 11 were seen about the Masai Mara Game Reserve between 5th and 9th June – all were males with 2 on 5th, 1 on 6th, 3 on 7th, 4 on 8th and at least 1 on 9th June.

128. Yellow-fronted Canary

Quite commonly seen during our game drives about the Masai Mara Game Reserve with a total of 6 seen on 5th, quite a few on 6th, two on 8th and several on 9th June.

129. Streaky Seedeater

Only seen on 3rd June when at least 2 were seen at the Boulevard Hotel, Nairobi, 3 more were seen between Nairobi and a Rift Valley viewpoint and up to 3 more were seen at Elsamere, L. Naivasha.

130. Baglafaecht Weaver

The first was seen at the Boulevard Hotel, Nairobi on 3rd June and two more were seen on the journey to and up to three seen at Elsamere and Lake Naivasha that day. At least 3 were seen at Elsamere on 4th June then one was seen by others at Kicheche Camp on 7th where a male was seen well on 9th June and another was seen during a drive at the Masai Mara Game Reserve. Lastly, two seen upon our return to the Boulevard Hotel on 10th June completed our tally. Additionally, fifteen or so total weaver sp. were seen during the trip that though unidentified on the usually brief views obtained were considered quite likely to also have been this species.

131. Spectacled Weaver

Up to 3 were seen about the grounds of Elsamere, Lake Naivasha on 3rd June.

132. Yellow Bishop

One was seen between Elsamere and Narok on 4th June and another between Narok and the Masai Mara Game Reserve then one at Kicheche Camp the same day. Two singles were seen about the Masai Mara Game Reserve on both 5th and 6th June and single birds were also seen on 7th and 9th June. A possible was glimpsed at Kicheche Camp on 5th June and one was seen there on 6th. Lastly, one was seen between Narok and Nairobi on 10th June. All records were of males though early sightings were not with certainty separated from the similar Yellow-mantled Widow on views obtained

133. Red-collared Widowbird

2 males and 8 females were seen well during our stop by the Mara River, Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th June.

134. Red-billed Firefinch

One at Kicheche Camp on 7th June in flight and a pair seen as we drove along between Kicheche Camp and the B3 highway on 10th June were considered to have been of most likely this species rather than of any of the others in this group of similar looking firefinches.

135. Red-headed Bluebill

Two singles, both seen only in flight from the van as we drove along from Kicheche Camp toward the B3 highway on 10th June – chunky red finches with grey bills and black wings could only have been this species, especially as superficially similar Twinspot species are not found in this area.

136. Purple Grenadier

2 plus were seen well about the grounds of Elsamere, Lake Naivasha on 3rd June.

137. Quail Finch

Two were seen well from Davis's van on our first game drive on the afternoon of 4th June at Masai Mara Game Reserve and were our only sighting of this small elusive finch.

138. Red-winged Starling

One was seen at Elsamere, Lake Naivasha late on 3rd June and 2 were seen at Narok on 10th June.

139. Greater Blue-eared Glossy Starling

Two, probably of this species were seen briefly at the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 6th June then 2 were identified there on 7th, 2 singles on 8th June. Two were seen on 9th June and 1 on 10th June at Kicheche Camp and, lastly, 2 singles were seen between Kicheche Camp and Narok on 10th June.

140. Superb Starling

Three were seen between Nairobi and Lake Naivasha and at least 10 were about the grounds of Elsamere on 3rd June with a few seen there next morning. About a dozen more were seen en route between Lake Naivasha and the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 4th June and singles were seen about the reserve on 4th and 6th June. Lastly, 3 singles were noted on our journey back to Nairobi on 10th June. 5 then 2 unidentified Starling sp. were seen on our journeys on 4th June.

141. Ruppell's Long-tailed Starling

Two singles were noted about the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th June, both briefly seen and remain unconfirmed.

142. Wattled Starling

One was seen well at Masai Mara Game Reserve on 7th June and a flock of 24+ were seen there on 8th. Additionally, flocks of 19 then 12 unidentified Starling sp. were seen on the reserve 7th June and a flock of c14 Starling sp. flew past Kicheche Camp on 10th June.

143. Red-billed Oxpecker

5 were seen about the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th June followed by 2 on 7th and 7 on 8th June.

144. Yellow-billed Oxpecker

16 were noted about a herd of Savanna Buffalo at the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 7th June.

145. Golden-winged Sunbird

Two males and a female were seen late afternoon at Elsamere, Lake Naivasha on 3rd June and five were seen there next morning. One was seen at Narok on 4th June (see also next species) and another was seen along the drive from Narok to the Masai Mara Game Reserve that day.

146. Sunbird sp.

A big, all dark Sunbird sp. with green head, deeply curved bill but without yellow in the plumage, (so not the previous species or even a juvenile of that species, though otherwise similar in shape and size), was seen from a "loo stop" shop near Narok on 4th June.

147. Amethyst Sunbird

Two singles were seen about the grounds of Elsamere, Lake Naivasha on 3rd June and one was seen at Narok on 10th June.

148. Scarlet-chested Sunbird

One was seen along the journey between Elsamere and Narok on 4th June – the similar Hunter's Sunbird can be ruled out on distribution alone. One was seen by other trip members about the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 9th June and one was seen well at Narok on 10th June.

149. Variable Sunbird

One of two Sunbird sp. seen briefly at the Boulevard Hotel, Nairobi on 3rd June was considered most likely to be this species on the view obtained as were 2 singles at Elsamere, Lake Naivasha that afternoon and one there on 4th June. One was seen at Narok on 10th June. Also, two unidentified sunbirds were briefly seen between Narok and Kicheche Camp on 4th June.

150. House Sparrow

Two males and a female were at a café stop between Lake Naivasha and Narok on 4th June and a male was seen between Narok and Nairobi on 10th June.

151. Rufous Sparrow

One was videoed at the Boulevard Hotel, Nairobi on 3rd June. One was Elsamere, Lake Naivasha and two more were at Narok on 4th June. One was at the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 9th June and Elly saw one between Kicheche Camp and the B3 highway on 10th June.

152. Swahili (Grey-headed) Sparrow

Swahili Sparrow has now been split by recent authorities from Grey-headed Sparrow and, primarily on range, all our sightings were of this (sub)species. 2 probables were seen between Narok and the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 4th June where 1 was seen on 5th, 2 on 8th and 2 on 9th June. Lastly, a probable was seen between Narok and Nairobi on 10th June. Two single sparrows on our journeys on 3rd and a total of 8 on 10th June were unattributable to species on brief drive-past views obtained.

153. Grey-backed Fiscal

A grey shrike seen between Nairobi and the Rift Valley viewpoint on 3rd June was likely this species and 2 were positively identified at Elsamere, Lake Naivasha that afternoon. Two singles were seen between Elsamere and Narok on 4th June and a third was seen by two of the others.

154. Common Fiscal

Seen every day, a total of 37 were noted. Three singles were seen between Nairobi and Elsamere on 3rd June and a total of 8 plus an unidentified shrike sp. were between Elsamere and Kicheche Camp on 4th June. Daily totals at Masai Mara Game Reserve were 1 on 4th, 2 on 5th, 3 on 6th and 7th, 4 on 8th, 3 on 9th and 2 at Kicheche Camp on 7th June. 4 singles were seen between Kicheche Camp and Narok on 10th June where our last 4 were seen.

155. Black-crowned Tchagra

Single birds were noted during our game drives about Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th and 6th June and singles were also seen at Kicheche Camp on 7th and 8th June – all of these were seen briefly and the similar Brown-crowned Tchagra could not be positively ruled out though the first two looked black enough on the head. A good confirmed sighting of this species was enjoyed with a single on our morning game drive on 9th June.

156. Slate-coloured Boubou

Recorded at Kicheche Camp as follows; 2 on 5th, 1 on 6th, 1 twice on 7th, 1 on 8th and 9th and 2 singles on 10th June. Also on 10th June, one, probably this species, was seen as we drove along from Kicheche Camp toward the B3 highway.

157. Black-backed Puffback

One was seen at Elsamere, Lake Naivasha on 3rd June. This is the common puffback species of the region, Northern Puffback occurring north of the Equator.

158. Common Drongo

Three singles at Elsamere, Lake Naivasha on 3rd June may have involved repeat sightings but one was seen there next morning and then, at Masai Mara Game Reserve, 2 were seen on 7th and one on 8th and 9th June.

159. Black-headed Oriole

One seen only briefly in the grounds of Elsamere, Lake Naivasha on 3rd June was unmistakable and is the common oriole species hereabouts.

160. Pied Crow

Quite a few were seen from the Boulevard Hotel, Nairobi from dawn on our first morning, 3rd June and 6 were seen there when we returned late afternoon on 10th June. Elsewhere, a total of 10 were seen between Nairobi and Lake Naivasha on 3rd, at least 4 were seen between Lake Naivasha and Narok on 4th June and 6 were seen during our journey between Narok and Nairobi on 10th June.

161. Cape Crow

A total of 6 were seen between Nairobi and Elsamere on 3rd June then one was seen on the journey toward Narok on 4th June. Three were seen at our lakeside stop nearing Nairobi on 10th June.

Mammals

1. Greater Bushbaby

A few of us were lucky to glimpse one near the staff quarters of Kicheche Camp shown to us by the assistant manager, Annie on evening of 7th June.

2. Olive Baboon

Missed by me, but one was seen by DCP and a few were seen by some of the others as we travelled between Lake Naivasha and Narok on 4th June.

3. Vervet Monkey

Two were seen at Kicheche Camp on 5th June and an adult and a juvenile were seen there on 6th June. One sneaked under the faulty zipper of our tent and ate a banana before departing and leaving only the stem as a leftover in proof!

4. Guereza Black and White Colobus

At least four were seen and often heard about the grounds of Elsamere, Lake Naivasha on 3rd June and were heard again before we left next morning.

5. Burchell's (Plains) Zebra

Good numbers were seen every day about the Masai Mara Game Reserve including from Kicheche Camp from 4th to 10th June. The highest counts were of 112 seen during our afternoon game drive on 6th and 81 on our morning drive on 8th June. Additionally, a few of the others saw some between Elsamere and Narok on 3rd June. Groups of 9 then 20 were seen on 10th June as we headed from Kicheche Camp toward highway B3.

6. White Rhinoceros

An introduced species into this area - the indigenous Black Rhino occurs further south in the Masai Mara Game Reserve. Some Masai guides showed our party 3 present in the bush below a hillside on the afternoon of 6th June.

7. Warthog

All records came from our Masai Mara Game Reserve drives as follows; 2 on 5th, a total of 9 on 6th, 2 on 8th and 3 on 9th when DCP and others saw another 5.

8. Hippopotamus

At least 40 were seen, often at very close range, during our boat trip on Lake Naivasha on 3rd June. Over 40 to c70 were seen from stops by the River Mara at the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th, 8th and 9th June.

9. Masai (Kenyan) Giraffe

Seen at the Masai Mara Game Reserve, including Kicheche Camp, daily from 4th to 9th June with 11 or 12 seen on 4th, up to 6 on 5th, 5 on 6th and 7th, up to 8 on 8th and 4 on 9th June. Additionally, on 10th June, 4 then 1 were seen as we journeyed between Kicheche Camp and the B3 highway and 12 plus more were seen between Narok and Nairobi.

10. Savanna Buffalo

A very large bull was seen at the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 6th June and 29 adults and up to 5 juveniles were seen there on 7th June.

11. Common Eland

Herds of 37 then 8 were seen on 4th June at the Masai Mara Game Reserve followed by 40 on 7th and 4 then 32 on 8th June.

12. Water Buck

Our only record of this large antelope with circular marked rear were of several we passed on the drive to Elsamere on 3rd June.

13. Coke's Hartebeest

Nine adults with two juveniles were seen at the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th June and a herd of 10 were seen there on 8th June.

14. Topi

Seen daily from 4th to 10th June about the Masai Mara Game Reserve, including Kicheche Camp, with daily maxima of 23 on 4th, 24 on 5th, 65 on 6th, 18 on 7th, 15 on 8th, 44 on 9th and 7 on 10th June.

15. Blue Wildebeest

Otherwise more generally known as the Gnu, this species was seen daily about the Masai Mara Game Reserve, including Kicheche Camp, with daily maxima of 2 on 4th, 14 on 5th, 62 on 6th, 119 on 7th, 43 on 8th, 153 on 9th and 16 on 10th June when also we saw 17 then c11 between Kicheche Camp and the B3 highway.

16. Impala

At least 34 were seen by Lake Naivasha on 3rd June. This species was seen daily about the Masai Mara Game Reserve, including Kicheche Camp, with daily maxima of 2 on 4th, 90 plus on 5th, 66 on 6th, 75 plus on 7th, 63 on 8th, 12 on 9th June and just one from Kicheche Camp on 10th plus another on our way to the B3 highway.

17. Grant's Gazelle

Readily told from the smaller Thompson's Gazelles by their taller frame and white rear markings extending above the tail, our daily maxima counts about the Masai Mara Game Reserve, including Kicheche Camp, were of 32 on 4th 14 on 5th, 27 on 6th, 22 on 7th, 37 on 8th and 12 plus on 9th June.

18. Thompson's Gazelle

35 were seen en route from Elsamere to Narok on 4th June. On 10th June, 5 were seen between Kicheche Camp and the B3 highway and later up to 16 more were seen between Narok and Nairobi. Otherwise, this was the commonest Antelope species on the Masai Mara Game Reserve where, either during our game drives or from Kicheche Camp, large numbers were seen daily between 4th and 10th June, over 200 counted on 4th being fairly typical of the numbers seen.

19. Kirk's Dik-dik

The only Dik-dik of this region, we saw one on our journey between Elsamere and Narok on 4th June and one that afternoon at the Masai Mara Game Reserve. 3 were seen there on 6th and another on 8th June seen by DCP and others.

20. Red Duiker

One at Masai Mara Game Reserve seen from Elly's van as we drove up through the bush to see the White Rhino's on 6th June.

21. African Savanna Elephant

Groups of 5 and 24 were seen at the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th June followed by 11 on 6th, 8 on 7th, 18 then a single on 8th and 16 on 9th June. Some of the same were often close to our Kicheche Camp base. Some were very young and we encountered a very grumpy old adult one day!

22. Black-backed Jackal

Up to 5 were seen about the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 5th June then 1 on 6th, 2 on 8th and 1 on 9th June.

23. Banded Mongoose

A party of 10 were seen at the Masai Mara Game Reserve, some photographed, during our afternoon game drive on 6th June. [Some mongooses were reported by at least one other van-load one day but date/identity not known].

24. Eastern Dwarf Mongoose

2 at Kicheche Camp on 7th June though others in our party caught sight of a few more in the party as they scurried through the camp edge at lunchtime.

25. Spotted Hyena

3 were seen by some of the others on 5th June about the Masai Mara Game Reserve and we saw 1 on 6th, 2 on 7th and 2 on 9th June.

26. Cheetah

A female with two very young kittens only a few weeks old gave wonderful views (when not hassled by some other "rogue" vehicles) at the Masai Mara Game Reserve. The female would on occasion leap onto the bonnet of a vehicle to gain a better view of the surrounding plain. We saw them on the 4th, 6th and 8th June and, on 5th June, the female was seen chewing the remains of Thompson's Gazelle that she'd hunted down.

27. Leopard

Just Sammy and two very lucky members of the party got brief views of one on 7th June, otherwise we searched in vain for this elusive but wonderful big cat.

28. Lion

All records, unsurprisingly, were about the Masai Mara Game Reserve. 2 males were seen lazing on 4th June and later, toward dusk, 4 females were seen preparing to stalk a line of Zebra. On 5th June, a line of 2 females and 12

juveniles were very enjoyable, plus Davis had seen three more females moving away from our three vans as we pulled up. Lastly, on 9th June we watched a male and four females lazing and then moving off through the bush.

29. Spring/Cape Hare

One seen DCP and others at Masai Mara Game Reserve on 8th June. Another seen by others of our party on 9th June. Neither seen well enough to identify which of these two very similar species seen.

Other records

1. African Rock Python

One coiled in reeds identified by our boatman at Lake Naivasha on 3rd June.

2. Puff Adder

One was seen by some of the others on the trip outside the tents at Kicheche Camp on 4th or 5th June.

3. Monitor Lizard sp.

One seen by a small pool at the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 8th June but not identified specifically. Another was reported by others in our party earlier in the week.

4. lizard sp.

One was seen at Elsamere, Lake Naivasha on 3rd June and another was seen at Kicheche Camp on 6th but neither was identified specifically.

5. terrapin sp.

2 were seen by a small pool on the Masai Mara Game Reserve on 9th June but were not specifically identified.

6. Painted Lady

2 were seen at the Rift Valley Viewpoint we stopped at on our way from Nairobi to Lake Naivasha on 3rd June. Many butterflies were seen during this week-long trip, but without any reference books available, none could be specifically identified. [Interestingly, no *Odonata* species were seen at all!].